

About Germain Mopa

As a parent with 2 children in the Campbell community Germain Mopa was born in Yaounde, Cameroon and attended The Master's High School in Connecticut. He played Soccer and basketball growing up. At 6'5" and 200 lbs., he accepted a full D1 scholarship to play for the University of Vermont Catamounts, where his career totaled 123 games from 2002-2005. He started 86 of those games and averaged 21 minutes per game. During his career, he finished in the top 20 in total rebounds, steals and assists in 3 of the 4 seasons he played. In college, competed against the likes of North Carolina, Syracuse, Michigan State, Hartford and Iona, and his team made it to the NCAA tournament 3 of the 4 years he attended. A major college highlight was eliminating Syracuse in the first round of the tournament the year after they won the championship with Carmello Anthony!

Coaching Philosophy

His Coaching experience includes AAU and SBA on the Girls and boys sides. What I'm looking for at the youth level is fundamental basketball ... play, loose, and aggressive. One way that your the kids can progress is if they understand what they are doing. I will hold all the kids accountable for the details, which is the most important part of the game. What I'm looking for this year is for the kids to understand how to play basketball as a team, play with high energy, play hard and have fun in the process.

Coaching Highlights

Watching kids react to simplified, concrete cues which show that real learning moments come from meeting them at their level. where I give them one clear, physical tasks to latch onto—rather than assuming they understand the "why" right away. One example is help defense, where a player couldn't grasp why they were rotating on defense. That player understood the mechanics but not the concept that all 5 defenders are working together to stop the ball, the most important threat. Sometimes you have to strip things back to the basic idea ("no matter what I'm doing, I have to stop that") rather than just calling out defensive instructions and expecting them to click.

Coaching Influences

Tom Brennan (college coach, Vermont)

Inspired me through his ability to celebrate small wins and make every player feel valued. Even on days a player felt like they weren't performing well, Coach Brennan found ways to remind them they mattered—not just star players, but everyone on the roster. He treated practice and full understanding of the plays as critical, which built a culture where walk-ons and starters felt like part of the same team. His genuine excitement over small progress showed that "nothing is given"—and that celebrating little wins is what lets a coach ask more of the team.

Tim Goodwin (high school coach)

Left an impression with me through simplicity and direct confidence-building. Rather than overcomplicating things, he'd tell a player plainly: "You're the best player out there" or

"You're a good defender, just go defend." That simple, direct affirmation had a big impact—was a reminder that coaching doesn't always need to be complicated; sometimes it's just about looking a player in the eye and giving them permission to trust their skill. Both coaches shaped an approach built on encouragement, simplicity, and making players feel valued and capable lessons that I am carrying into my own coaching."

Goals

1. Team-oriented offense

Get players to internalize "team basketball"—moving freely and instinctively on offense based on the coach's motivation/system, rather than relying on isolated plays. The measure of success: a kid can be dropped into any lineup (X, Y, Z) and still feel comfortable, know their spots, and move within the system.

2. Playing hard on defense

Regardless of scheme specifics (help defense, doubling when appropriate), the core standard is effort—playing hard no matter the circumstances. This is less about a rigid system and more about consistent intensity.

These aren't framed as "win the championship" goals directly—instead, the belief is that if the team masters team-oriented offense and hard-nosed defense individually and collectively, wins (and a real shot at the championship) will follow as a natural result.

A Message to Parents

I believe in partnership and communication—positioning the coach-parent relationship as a collaborative one that is built on openness, shared goals, and community investment. 3 key things to keep in mind:

1. Open-door, collaborative approach

With an emphasis on inclusivity—parents are invited to share suggestions or goals for their kids at any time, since not every kid has the same goals (some are focused on competing seriously, others just want to be involved in athletics). The message: "my door is open, my phone is open, come talk to me, and we'll work on this together."

2. Communicate before frustration builds

My direct ask of parents: before getting frustrated with a situation, come talk to the coach first—at least once or twice—so issues can be worked through together rather than festering.

3. Community and giving back

Help me to enable strong personal commitment to giving back to the community through basketball, with a goal of instilling that same spirit into the Campbell High School program.